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Radicals wage war on 'plotters' in U.S.

By James Kloss

Joe Bell, 26, an unemployed steelworker, announced his somewhat belated candidacy last week in the 1st Congressional District on the South Side.

"In my campaign, I will bring the issue of brainwashing and behavior modification to every worker, unemployed person and youth in the city of Chicago," he said.

Bell also said his campaign will be "the frontline battle of the working class against the Rockefeller plan for a fascist military take-over in 1974."

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A YOUNG woman walked into an Illinois Unemployment Compensation Office in the Loop and began screaming at the startled persons standing in lines inside:

"We are in a depression and it's time to organize! People like Leonard Woodcock are really working for the CIA! This energy crisis is a phony!"

Then, before they were ushered out, she and a male companion began passing out copies of a newspaper whose headlines blare out strange alarms such as:

"UNCOVER CIA-POLICE PLOT TO TAKE OVER U.S. Discover Method to De-Program Victims of CIA and Soviet Psycho-Sexual Brainwashing."

Joe Bell and the woman, Teana Parrish, are members of a group called the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) which has been popping up in the Chicago area with increasing frequency.

Members of the group have disrupted psychology lectures at the University of Chicago, and have been arrested in scuffling at Malcolm X College. They appear frequently in unemployment offices and at factory gates passing out their literature.

SOME DISMISS the group as just another kookie clan — irrationally worry about reports of violence used by NCLC against other radical groups and of

bizarre "deprogramming" of its own members. Still others see the NCLC as a sad story of the deterioration of a once intellectually-viable leftist youth group of the 1960s into a paranoid clutch that believes virtually the entire world is allied against it.

NCLC members have bombarded the media with revelations of an international "plot" that only it seems able to recognize and combat.

In the United States, it says the conspiracy involves deliberate, mass layoffs of workers and large scale "brainwashing" of the populace, turning workers and ghetto youth into zombie-like robots, controlled by the forces of capitalist-fascist evil.

These forces, it charges, are led by the Rockefeller family working primarily through its police arm, the Central Intelligence Agency. In the NCLC world view, President Nixon and leaders of other nations are either bungling dupes or conscious agents of the plot.

"There's no doubt about it, Rockefeller is the head. And (the Rev.) Jesse Jackson is the No. 3 CIA agent in the country," says Abbott Wright, 26, a leader of the local NCLC chapter.

ALLEGED accomplices in the plot are the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the American Communist Party, behavioral psychologists, the Illinois Drug Abuse Program, truckers, organized labor, Willy Brandt, the news media, the Russian KGB secret police and an unending list of others.

Sound fantastic? Not to the NCLC members, who express surprise, irritation or suspicion when their contentions are met with disbelief.

The organization's founder and national leader, New Yorker Lynn Marcus, a 51-year-old Marxist theoretician, had this to say to disbelievers:

"Any of you who say this is subhuman. You're not serious. The human race is at stake. Either we win or there is no

humanity. That's the way she's cut."

MARCUS, is the authoritarian leader of the group, which may have about 1,000 members.

His pronouncements, which appear to be accepted without question, provide ready answers for all current events and problems in terms of the "plot" — perhaps one of the attractions for the mostly young membership.

"I was won over by his theoretic al incisiveness," said Wright. "What most leftist groups do, is they adopt programs taken from Lenin, Marx and Mao but there is no development. Marcus goes beyond that intellectual function."

That includes the group's current frantic activity from NCLC offices at 711 S. Dearborn to organize an alliance of workers to assume control of the means of production, a classic Marxist goal.

THE GROUP had its origins in the 1960s as a faction of the Students for a Democratic Society and its founders were active in the Columbia University strike.

Yet most of the targets of NCLC vitriol seem to be those also opposed by far right groups: The American Communist Party, for example and anyone advocating black community control programs.

The Communist Party and other socialist groups, were the targets of NCLC's "Operation Mop-Up," which involved physical confrontations by club swinging members of the organization in Eastern cities.

"It was not an abstract question of using violence but a practical one," says Wright. "We used violence against Communists because we had to. They were in a sense scabs against the movement."

Meanwhile, the group prepares for what it says will be imminent race riots this spring, fomented by the CIA as a prelude to the coming military take-over.